

accidental varieties, various circumstances tend in a wild state to restrict the number of individuals, or cause the varieties to disappear altogether, whilst they may be rendered permanent by cultivation.

In our opinion, therefore, all that M. Godron has proved is, that *Triticum sativum* and *Ægilops orata* are species so nearly allied, that they hybridize with a facility very unusual amongst grasses; but we re-assert, that this is no proof that the two plants are distinct species.

To this we would add, that neither M. Godron nor M. Alexis Jordan, who has filled 100 pages of the Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences of Lyons with speculations upon the origin of domesticated plants, have attempted to explain what the origin of wheat has been, if it is not a domesticated condition of *Ægilops*, as M. Fabre's experiments, in our opinion, prove it to be.—*From the Gardeners' Chronicle for March 10, 1855.*

Mr. Busk's Anomalous Shell. By Prof. J. S. HENSLOW.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Hitcham, Suffolk, April 17, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,—I had not seen Dr. Gray's explanation of Mr. Busk's anomalous Oyster-shell till after I had forwarded my notice of the fossil in the Ipswich Museum, which I considered likely to offer a solution of the mystery. I have since been favoured by Mr. Busk with an oyster-shell attached in the way described by Dr. Gray, and I am quite disposed to admit that gentleman's explanation to be the correct one. Dr. Gray has also written to me to say he "described in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1833 the fact, that the peculiarities on the surface of a body to which a shell is attached are sometimes shown on the surface of the upper or free valve." The Ipswich specimen is therefore only an additional illustration of a fact long since noticed by my distinguished friend.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. HENSLOW.

On the Fructification of the Arachis hypogæa.

By HUGH M. NEISLER, Columbus, Geo.

In studying our *Stylosanthes* a few years ago, my attention was attracted by a note in Torrey and Gray's Flora of North America, vol. i. p. 354, viz., "Mr. Benthams, in a paper on the affinities of *Arachis*, read before the Linnæan Society in 1838, gives an account of the two kinds of flowers in *Stylosanthes*, and shows its affinity to *Arachis*, which he considers a genuine *Hedysarea*." I presumed that he supposed the *Arachis* to have two kinds of flowers, but, wishing to inform myself accurately as to his views, I mentioned the subject to Dr. Torrey in the course of our correspondence, who remarked in reply: "Mr. Benthams says, that *Arachis* has two kinds of flowers. Those that have all the parts do not perfect their fruit;

Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Ser. 2. Vol. xv.

25